

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 CU-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 PC-01 /088 W  
----- 108198

R 291450Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4641

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: ATMOSPHERICS: POLITICAL TENSIONS STILL RISING

REFS: (A) ADDIS 6240; (B) ADDIS 6203; (C) ADDIS 6201;

(D) ADDIS 6200; (E) ADDIS 6193

1. WE SENSE A FURTHER RISE IN POLITICAL TENSION WITHIN THIS CAPITAL  
AND AT LEAST SOME OTHER PROVINCIAL CENTERS AND REGIONS.

2. IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, THE EPMG IS CURRENTLY  
FACED, BEYOND THE ERITREAN WAR, CASUALTIES FROM WHICH ARE  
APPEARING IN ADDIS HOSPITALS IN GROWING NUMBERS, WITH CONTINUING  
GALLA TROUBLES IN THE SOUTH (CF REF D); A GROWING STUDENT MALAISE  
AS MONDAY'S DEADLINE FOR RETURN TO DISCIPLINE APPROACHES (CF  
REF A); CONTINUING TALK "IN THE STREET" OF A FURTHER DETERIORATION  
OF THE EMPEROR'S CONDITION (CF REF B) -- WE HEAR HE HAS NOW BEEN  
TRANSFERRED TO THE BODYGUARD HOSPITAL; UNCERTAINTIES AND STRIKE  
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THREATS IN THE LABOR SECTOR AS CELU'S UNIONS PREPARE TO CONFRONT

DIRG DIRECTIVES FOR THE SELECTION OF A NEW LEADERSHIP NEXT SATURDAY (CF REF C); CONTINUING TENSION BETWEEN THE EPMG AND THE AFAR WITH ITS POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES (CF REF E).

3. AS IF THIS WERE NOT SUFFICIENT, ADDIS IS NOW ABUZZ WITH REPORTS THAT THE NATIONALIZATION OF URBAN PROPERTIES MAY BE IMMINENT. THE REPORTS ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH REACH US SEEM TO ORIGINATE PRIMARILY WITH RELATIVELY LOW-LEVEL PERSONNEL IN THE ADDIS MUNICIPALITY. THE TENOR OF WHAT WE HEAR -- BUT HAVE YET TO CONFIRM -- IS THAT THE DRAFT PROCLAMATION OF URBAN PROPERTY NATIONALIZATION IS IN ITS FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION. WE ARE TOLD THAT THIS PROCLAMATION MAY BE AS DRACONIC IN ITS WAY AS THE NATIONALIZATION OF RURAL LAND IN THAT ALL HOUSING MAY BE AFFECTED. SOME REPORTS SPEAK OF POSSIBLE ASSOCIATED DECREES ON INCOMES; A MINIMUM FLOOR AND A MAXIMUM CEILING. THE FIGURES VARY BUT THE MOST POPULAR SEEM TO BE APPROXIMATELY E\$100 AS THE FLOOR AND E\$500 AS THE CEILING. WE HEAR FROM MORE RELIABLE SOURCES THAT TRANSFERS OF REAL PROPERTY HAVE BEEN ORDERED FROZEN EFFECTIVE MAY 28. THIS, TOO, HAS YET TO BE CONFIRMED AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND SUBSTANCE ASSESSED. IT DOES, HOWEVER, FUEL THE SPECULATION THAT FURTHER NATIONALIZATIONS MAY BE EXPECTED AT ANY TIME.

4. WHATEVER THE FOUNDATION FOR THESE URBAN NATIONALIZATION REPORTS, THEIR EFFECT AT THIS STAGE IS TO ADD SUBSTANTIALLY TO THE FEARS AND WORRIES OF THE ALREADY SORELY BESET ETHIOPIAN MIDDLE CLASS.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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